

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04193 201710Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 INR-07 /026 W
-----201714Z 028519 /43

R 151259Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, SOCI, NI
SUBJECT: NEW CAPITAL: MASTER PLANNERS

REF: STATE 80808

1. CDA STATES THAT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (REFERRED TO AS COUNCIL) MAY MAKE FINAL DECISION WITH ONE MONTH. EXPLAINS, VERY CONFIDENTIALLY AND OBLIQUELY, THAT CDA (EBONG) KNOWS WHO IT WANTS, HAS OBTAINED CDA BOARD'S ENDORSEMENT AND NW MASSAGING COUNCIL. STRENUOUS QTE LOBBYING

UNQTE BY BRITISH AND GERMANS HAS BEEN GEIN CAUSE OF DELAY. ANOTHER WAS CDA BOARD'S LACK OF SOPHISTICATION. WHEN HEAVY PRESSURE EXERTED BEHALF VARIOUS CNOTENDERERS, BOARD DECIDED BEST WAY OUT WAS TO ASK CONTENDERS FOR COST ESTIMATES, REASONING SAFEST COURSE WOULD BE TO CHOOSE LOWEST COST. EBONG SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THAT, UNLIKE CONTRACTOR S,

CONSULTANTS CANNOT BE CHOSEN ON BASIS COST ALONE, AIDING THAT SUCH AGENCIES AS STEEL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CHOSE CONSULTANTS FOR AJAOKUTA STEEL CITY ON MERIT, NOT COST. BOARD SHOULD BE GUIDED BY OBJECTIVE OPINION EXPERT PANEL AT JOS. BOARD AGREED, SAME ARGUMENTS NOW GOING ON WITH COUNCIL. CDA DECLINED REVEAL ITS CHOICE BUT WE CERTAIN IT REMAINS PANEL'S CHOICE, AMERICAN

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CONSORTIUM NAMED INTERNATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION, REPORTED LAGOS 1066. COMMENT: THESE DETAILS TOO SENSITIVE TO SHARE, INQUIRERS WITH NEED TO KNOW SHOULD BE TOLD ONLY HTAT PLANNER CHOICE EXPECTED WITHIN ONE MONTH.

2. NEW SUBJECT: PROJECT MANGER. EMBOFF ALSO ASKED STATUS OF COMPETITION FOR PROJECT MANAGER. CDA SAID THERE REALLY NO

SUCH COMPETITION AT PRESENT AS THERE NO NEED FOR MANAGER NEAR FUTURE. EXPLAINED THAT BECHTEL INSPIRED CDA CHAIRMAN AJOSE-ADEOGUN TO INITIATE PROJECT MANAGER COMPETITION AGAINST WISHES OF EBONG, WHO NOT RPT NOT PURSUING MATTER AT PRESENT. COMMENT: IT OUR IMPRESSION THAT EBONG MAY DESIRE BE ON PROJECT MANAGER AND THAT BECHTEL COULD BE JEOPARDIZING NEW CAPITU CHANCES BY IRRITATING EBONG, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS WITH EBONG. ACTION REQUESTED: PLS INFORM BECHTEL FOR RELAY TO DAVE GOERZ THAT, CONTRARY EARLIER IMPRESSION, NOTHING HAPPENING ON PROJECT MANAGER, THEREFORE BECHTEL PRESUMABLY STILL HAS A CHANCE IF BECHTEL KEEPS ON GOOD TERMS WITH EBONG. WITHOUT MENTIONING BECHTEL, PLS INFORM RICHARD W. WALBRECKER, PLANNING RESEARCH CORP. (PRC), MCLEAN VA., THAT PROJECT MANAGER COMPETITION DEFERRED FOR TIME BEING AS PREMATURE. TRY HIM AT HOME PHONE.

3. KADUNA: PLS BRIEF AMBASSADOR ON ABOVE.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS04193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770137-0503
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770453/aaaabubh.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 STATE 80808
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2796491
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW CAPITAL: MASTER PLANNERS
TAGS: BENC, SOCI, ECRE, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009